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(54) **GROUND BASED SATELLITE CONTROL SYSTEM FOR CONTROL OF NANO-SATELLITES IN LOW EARTH ORBIT**

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(58) **Field of Classification Search**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A ground based control system and method for controlling nanosatellites in low earth orbit to fly as an array, comprises arranging the nanosatellites, each of which has an illumination element in the array, and operating selected illumination elements to produce a display in which a pattern, shape or letters or words are detectable at a predetermined ground location.

18 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets